



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 30 2012

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Markey:

Thank you for your letter of April 19, 2012 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Jackson and Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Chu requesting information on our agencies' work to address the health and environmental impacts of abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Reservation. The EPA and our federal counterparts remain committed to upholding our responsibilities to the Navajo Nation to address uranium mines that threaten human health and the environment.

As your letter points out, thousands of abandoned uranium mines exist in the western United States, and the cost of cleaning up these sites far exceeds funds that federal, state and tribal governments have available for reclamation and remediation. We have a focused effort on the Navajo reservation and other sites where risks to human health are the greatest.

The EPA, DOE, Indian Health Service, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Centers for Disease Control are in our fifth year of implementing a 5-year plan to reduce human health risks from uranium-contaminated materials in homes, drinking water sources, and abandoned mine and mill sites on the Navajo Reservation. We have focused on addressing the most urgent risks to residents while gaining a better understanding of the scope of the problem.

We are overseeing cleanup work by responsible parties at 3 high-priority mines and the Tuba City Open Dump and are utilizing Superfund program appropriations and Tronox bankruptcy funds to conduct assessments of four additional priority mine sites, including the uranium ore transfer station near Cameron, Arizona (known as Section 9 Lease).

We are currently evaluating the eligibility of Section 9 Lease for inclusion on the Superfund National Priorities List and anticipate completing our CERCLA Preliminary Assessment in the summer of 2012. We are also determining what short-term response actions are necessary at this site. In addition, we are evaluating information regarding potentially responsible parties who may be pursued to finance cleanup actions for this and other sites on the Navajo Nation.

Since 2007, the EPA in coordination with the Navajo Nation EPA has performed or overseen \$61.8 million in work to address uranium contamination, including more than \$15 million from responsible parties. EPA and our Navajo Nation counterparts have:

- screened 683 homes and other structures for potential contamination;
- completed the demolition of 34 structures (including homes and ceremonial hogans); rebuilt 14 homes;
- completed screening-level field assessments of 520 mines;
- completed cleanup of highest priority Skyline Mine;
- started cleanup on three of the highest priority mines identified in consultation with the Navajo Nation;
- issued enforcement actions against four responsible parties and are overseeing their investigations and cleanups; and
- tested 240 drinking water wells for contamination, shut down or posted sources exceeding drinking water standards, piloted new water hauling service to remote areas and partnered with Indian Health Service and HUD to invest \$24.5 million in new water lines.

In FY 2012, we contracted with the Navajo Department of Housing to rebuild 12 contaminated homes in the Baca/Haystack area of the reservation in New Mexico. Later this year, we will scan an additional 40 structures in the Cove, Arizona area, and will start demolition of homes found to be contaminated.

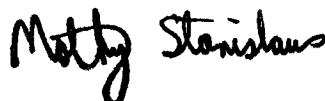
The EPA coordinates closely with Navajo Nation EPA, the Indian Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and local organizations to provide information to communities threatened by abandoned uranium mines. EPA has conducted outreach to all Navajo Chapters affected by uranium contaminated water supplies and have posted signs at wells and local Chapter Houses.

Your letter also inquires as to the status of the EPA response actions at the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine in New Mexico. EPA Region 6 has consulted with the Pueblo of Laguna regarding ongoing concerns about the status of reclamation for this mine. The EPA has conducted several investigations since 2010 and proposed the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine for inclusion on the National Priorities List on March 15, 2012. The listing will allow the EPA to utilize federal Superfund program funds to address the risks to human health and the environment at the mine.

The EPA and our federal counterparts have committed to developing a second 5-year plan for the Navajo Nation, covering 2013-2017. This plan will prioritize response actions for the remaining highest risk mines, structures, and water supplies.

Again, thank you for your interest in federal efforts to address the health and environmental impacts of abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Reservation. If you have further questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Raquel Snyder in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-9586.

Sincerely,



Mathy Stanislaus
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 30 2012

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Thank you for your letter of April 19, 2012 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Jackson and Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Chu requesting information on our agencies' work to address the health and environmental impacts of abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Reservation. The EPA and our federal counterparts remain committed to upholding our responsibilities to the Navajo Nation to address uranium mines that threaten human health and the environment.

As your letter points out, thousands of abandoned uranium mines exist in the western United States, and the cost of cleaning up these sites far exceeds funds that federal, state and tribal governments have available for reclamation and remediation. We have a focused effort on the Navajo reservation and other sites where risks to human health are the greatest.

The EPA, DOE, Indian Health Service, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Centers for Disease Control are in our fifth year of implementing a 5-year plan to reduce human health risks from uranium-contaminated materials in homes, drinking water sources, and abandoned mine and mill sites on the Navajo Reservation. We have focused on addressing the most urgent risks to residents while gaining a better understanding of the scope of the problem.

We are overseeing cleanup work by responsible parties at 3 high-priority mines and the Tuba City Open Dump and are utilizing Superfund program appropriations and Tronox bankruptcy funds to conduct assessments of four additional priority mine sites, including the uranium ore transfer station near Cameron, Arizona (known as Section 9 Lease).

We are currently evaluating the eligibility of Section 9 Lease for inclusion on the Superfund National Priorities List and anticipate completing our CERCLA Preliminary Assessment in the summer of 2012. We are also determining what short-term response actions are necessary at this site. In addition, we are evaluating information regarding potentially responsible parties who may be pursued to finance cleanup actions for this and other sites on the Navajo Nation.

Since 2007, the EPA in coordination with the Navajo Nation EPA has performed or overseen \$61.8 million in work to address uranium contamination, including more than \$15 million from responsible parties. EPA and our Navajo Nation counterparts have:

- screened 683 homes and other structures for potential contamination;
- completed the demolition of 34 structures (including homes and ceremonial hogans); rebuilt 14 homes;
- completed screening-level field assessments of 520 mines;
- completed cleanup of highest priority Skyline Mine;
- started cleanup on three of the highest priority mines identified in consultation with the Navajo Nation;
- issued enforcement actions against four responsible parties and are overseeing their investigations and cleanups; and
- tested 240 drinking water wells for contamination, shut down or posted sources exceeding drinking water standards, piloted new water hauling service to remote areas and partnered with Indian Health Service and HUD to invest \$24.5 million in new water lines.

In FY 2012, we contracted with the Navajo Department of Housing to rebuild 12 contaminated homes in the Baca/Haystack area of the reservation in New Mexico. Later this year, we will scan an additional 40 structures in the Cove, Arizona area, and will start demolition of homes found to be contaminated.

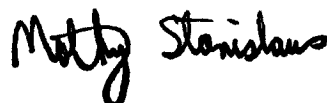
The EPA coordinates closely with Navajo Nation EPA, the Indian Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and local organizations to provide information to communities threatened by abandoned uranium mines. EPA has conducted outreach to all Navajo Chapters affected by uranium contaminated water supplies and have posted signs at wells and local Chapter Houses.

Your letter also inquires as to the status of the EPA response actions at the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine in New Mexico. EPA Region 6 has consulted with the Pueblo of Laguna regarding ongoing concerns about the status of reclamation for this mine. The EPA has conducted several investigations since 2010 and proposed the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine for inclusion on the National Priorities List on March 15, 2012. The listing will allow the EPA to utilize federal Superfund program funds to address the risks to human health and the environment at the mine.

The EPA and our federal counterparts have committed to developing a second 5-year plan for the Navajo Nation, covering 2013-2017. This plan will prioritize response actions for the remaining highest risk mines, structures, and water supplies.

Again, thank you for your interest in federal efforts to address the health and environmental impacts of abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Reservation. If you have further questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Raquel Snyder in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-9586.

Sincerely,



Mathy Stanislaus
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 30 2012

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Honorable Dale E. Kildee
Co-Chair, Native American Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kildee:

Thank you for your letter of April 19, 2012 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Jackson and Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Chu requesting information on our agencies' work to address the health and environmental impacts of abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Reservation. The EPA and our federal counterparts remain committed to upholding our responsibilities to the Navajo Nation to address uranium mines that threaten human health and the environment.

As your letter points out, thousands of abandoned uranium mines exist in the western United States, and the cost of cleaning up these sites far exceeds funds that federal, state and tribal governments have available for reclamation and remediation. We have a focused effort on the Navajo reservation and other sites where risks to human health are the greatest.

The EPA, DOE, Indian Health Service, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Centers for Disease Control are in our fifth year of implementing a 5-year plan to reduce human health risks from uranium-contaminated materials in homes, drinking water sources, and abandoned mine and mill sites on the Navajo Reservation. We have focused on addressing the most urgent risks to residents while gaining a better understanding of the scope of the problem.

We are overseeing cleanup work by responsible parties at 3 high-priority mines and the Tuba City Open Dump and are utilizing Superfund program appropriations and Tronox bankruptcy funds to conduct assessments of four additional priority mine sites, including the uranium ore transfer station near Cameron, Arizona (known as Section 9 Lease).

We are currently evaluating the eligibility of Section 9 Lease for inclusion on the Superfund National Priorities List and anticipate completing our CERCLA Preliminary Assessment in the summer of 2012. We are also determining what short-term response actions are necessary at this site. In addition, we are evaluating information regarding potentially responsible parties who may be pursued to finance cleanup actions for this and other sites on the Navajo Nation.

Since 2007, the EPA in coordination with the Navajo Nation EPA has performed or overseen \$61.8 million in work to address uranium contamination, including more than \$15 million from responsible parties. EPA and our Navajo Nation counterparts have:

- screened 683 homes and other structures for potential contamination;

- completed the demolition of 34 structures (including homes and ceremonial hogans); rebuilt 14 homes;
- completed screening-level field assessments of 520 mines;
- completed cleanup of highest priority Skyline Mine;
- started cleanup on three of the highest priority mines identified in consultation with the Navajo Nation;
- issued enforcement actions against four responsible parties and are overseeing their investigations and cleanups; and
- tested 240 drinking water wells for contamination, shut down or posted sources exceeding drinking water standards, piloted new water hauling service to remote areas and partnered with Indian Health Service and HUD to invest \$24.5 million in new water lines.

In FY 2012, we contracted with the Navajo Department of Housing to rebuild 12 contaminated homes in the Baca/Haystack area of the reservation in New Mexico. Later this year, we will scan an additional 40 structures in the Cove, Arizona area, and will start demolition of homes found to be contaminated.


The EPA coordinates closely with Navajo Nation EPA, the Indian Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and local organizations to provide information to communities threatened by abandoned uranium mines. EPA has conducted outreach to all Navajo Chapters affected by uranium contaminated water supplies and have posted signs at wells and local Chapter Houses.

Your letter also inquires as to the status of the EPA response actions at the Jackpile-Pagute Uranium Mine in New Mexico. EPA Region 6 has consulted with the Pueblo of Laguna regarding ongoing concerns about the status of reclamation for this mine. The EPA has conducted several investigations since 2010 and proposed the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine for inclusion on the National Priorities List on March 15, 2012. The listing will allow the EPA to utilize federal Superfund program funds to address the risks to human health and the environment at the mine.

The EPA and our federal counterparts have committed to developing a second 5-year plan for the Navajo Nation, covering 2013-2017. This plan will prioritize response actions for the remaining highest risk mines, structures, and water supplies.

Again, thank you for your interest in federal efforts to address the health and environmental impacts of abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Reservation. If you have further questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Raquel Snyder in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-9586.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mathy Stanislaus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mathy Stanislaus
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 30 2012

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Heinrich:

Thank you for your letter of April 19, 2012 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Jackson and Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Chu requesting information on our agencies' work to address the health and environmental impacts of abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Reservation. The EPA and our federal counterparts remain committed to upholding our responsibilities to the Navajo Nation to address uranium mines that threaten human health and the environment.

As your letter points out, thousands of abandoned uranium mines exist in the western United States, and the cost of cleaning up these sites far exceeds funds that federal, state and tribal governments have available for reclamation and remediation. We have a focused effort on the Navajo reservation and other sites where risks to human health are the greatest.

The EPA, DOE, Indian Health Service, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Centers for Disease Control are in our fifth year of implementing a 5-year plan to reduce human health risks from uranium-contaminated materials in homes, drinking water sources, and abandoned mine and mill sites on the Navajo Reservation. We have focused on addressing the most urgent risks to residents while gaining a better understanding of the scope of the problem.

We are overseeing cleanup work by responsible parties at 3 high-priority mines and the Tuba City Open Dump and are utilizing Superfund program appropriations and Tronox bankruptcy funds to conduct assessments of four additional priority mine sites, including the uranium ore transfer station near Cameron, Arizona (known as Section 9 Lease).

We are currently evaluating the eligibility of Section 9 Lease for inclusion on the Superfund National Priorities List and anticipate completing our CERCLA Preliminary Assessment in the summer of 2012. We are also determining what short-term response actions are necessary at this site. In addition, we are evaluating information regarding potentially responsible parties who may be pursued to finance cleanup actions for this and other sites on the Navajo Nation.

Since 2007, the EPA in coordination with the Navajo Nation EPA has performed or overseen \$61.8 million in work to address uranium contamination, including more than \$15 million from responsible parties. EPA and our Navajo Nation counterparts have:

- screened 683 homes and other structures for potential contamination;

- completed the demolition of 34 structures (including homes and ceremonial hogans); rebuilt 14 homes;
- completed screening-level field assessments of 520 mines;
- completed cleanup of highest priority Skyline Mine;
- started cleanup on three of the highest priority mines identified in consultation with the Navajo Nation;
- issued enforcement actions against four responsible parties and are overseeing their investigations and cleanups; and
- tested 240 drinking water wells for contamination, shut down or posted sources exceeding drinking water standards, piloted new water hauling service to remote areas and partnered with Indian Health Service and HUD to invest \$24.5 million in new water lines.

In FY 2012, we contracted with the Navajo Department of Housing to rebuild 12 contaminated homes in the Baca/Haystack area of the reservation in New Mexico. Later this year, we will scan an additional 40 structures in the Cove, Arizona area, and will start demolition of homes found to be contaminated.

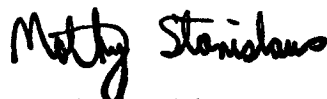
The EPA coordinates closely with Navajo Nation EPA, the Indian Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and local organizations to provide information to communities threatened by abandoned uranium mines. EPA has conducted outreach to all Navajo Chapters affected by uranium contaminated water supplies and have posted signs at wells and local Chapter Houses.

Your letter also inquires as to the status of the EPA response actions at the Jackpile-Pagute Uranium Mine in New Mexico. EPA Region 6 has consulted with the Pueblo of Laguna regarding ongoing concerns about the status of reclamation for this mine. The EPA has conducted several investigations since 2010 and proposed the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine for inclusion on the National Priorities List on March 15, 2012. The listing will allow the EPA to utilize federal Superfund program funds to address the risks to human health and the environment at the mine.

The EPA and our federal counterparts have committed to developing a second 5-year plan for the Navajo Nation, covering 2013-2017. This plan will prioritize response actions for the remaining highest risk mines, structures, and water supplies.

Again, thank you for your interest in federal efforts to address the health and environmental impacts of abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Reservation. If you have further questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Raquel Snyder in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-9586.

Sincerely,



Mathy Stanislaus
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 30 2012

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Honorable Ed Pastor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0304

Dear Congressman Pastor:

Thank you for your letter of April 19, 2012 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Jackson and Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Chu requesting information on our agencies' work to address the health and environmental impacts of abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Reservation. The EPA and our federal counterparts remain committed to upholding our responsibilities to the Navajo Nation to address uranium mines that threaten human health and the environment.

As your letter points out, thousands of abandoned uranium mines exist in the western United States, and the cost of cleaning up these sites far exceeds funds that federal, state and tribal governments have available for reclamation and remediation. We have a focused effort on the Navajo reservation and other sites where risks to human health are the greatest.

The EPA, DOE, Indian Health Service, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Centers for Disease Control are in our fifth year of implementing a 5-year plan to reduce human health risks from uranium-contaminated materials in homes, drinking water sources, and abandoned mine and mill sites on the Navajo Reservation. We have focused on addressing the most urgent risks to residents while gaining a better understanding of the scope of the problem.

We are overseeing cleanup work by responsible parties at 3 high-priority mines and the Tuba City Open Dump and are utilizing Superfund program appropriations and Tronox bankruptcy funds to conduct assessments of four additional priority mine sites, including the uranium ore transfer station near Cameron, Arizona (known as Section 9 Lease).

We are currently evaluating the eligibility of Section 9 Lease for inclusion on the Superfund National Priorities List and anticipate completing our CERCLA Preliminary Assessment in the summer of 2012. We are also determining what short-term response actions are necessary at this site. In addition, we are evaluating information regarding potentially responsible parties who may be pursued to finance cleanup actions for this and other sites on the Navajo Nation.

Since 2007, the EPA in coordination with the Navajo Nation EPA has performed or overseen \$61.8 million in work to address uranium contamination, including more than \$15 million from responsible parties. EPA and our Navajo Nation counterparts have:

- screened 683 homes and other structures for potential contamination;

- completed the demolition of 34 structures (including homes and ceremonial hogans); rebuilt 14 homes;
- completed screening-level field assessments of 520 mines;
- completed cleanup of highest priority Skyline Mine;
- started cleanup on three of the highest priority mines identified in consultation with the Navajo Nation;
- issued enforcement actions against four responsible parties and are overseeing their investigations and cleanups; and
- tested 240 drinking water wells for contamination, shut down or posted sources exceeding drinking water standards, piloted new water hauling service to remote areas and partnered with Indian Health Service and HUD to invest \$24.5 million in new water lines.

In FY 2012, we contracted with the Navajo Department of Housing to rebuild 12 contaminated homes in the Baca/Haystack area of the reservation in New Mexico. Later this year, we will scan an additional 40 structures in the Cove, Arizona area, and will start demolition of homes found to be contaminated.

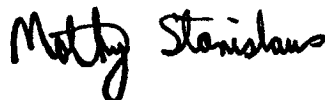
The EPA coordinates closely with Navajo Nation EPA, the Indian Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and local organizations to provide information to communities threatened by abandoned uranium mines. EPA has conducted outreach to all Navajo Chapters affected by uranium contaminated water supplies and have posted signs at wells and local Chapter Houses.

Your letter also inquires as to the status of the EPA response actions at the Jackpile-Pagute Uranium Mine in New Mexico. EPA Region 6 has consulted with the Pueblo of Laguna regarding ongoing concerns about the status of reclamation for this mine. The EPA has conducted several investigations since 2010 and proposed the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine for inclusion on the National Priorities List on March 15, 2012. The listing will allow the EPA to utilize federal Superfund program funds to address the risks to human health and the environment at the mine.

The EPA and our federal counterparts have committed to developing a second 5-year plan for the Navajo Nation, covering 2013-2017. This plan will prioritize response actions for the remaining highest risk mines, structures, and water supplies.

Again, thank you for your interest in federal efforts to address the health and environmental impacts of abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Reservation. If you have further questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Raquel Snyder in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-9586.

Sincerely,



Mathy Stanislaus
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 30 2012

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lujan:

Thank you for your letter of April 19, 2012 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Jackson and Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Chu requesting information on our agencies' work to address the health and environmental impacts of abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Reservation. The EPA and our federal counterparts remain committed to upholding our responsibilities to the Navajo Nation to address uranium mines that threaten human health and the environment.

As your letter points out, thousands of abandoned uranium mines exist in the western United States, and the cost of cleaning up these sites far exceeds funds that federal, state and tribal governments have available for reclamation and remediation. We have a focused effort on the Navajo reservation and other sites where risks to human health are the greatest.

The EPA, DOE, Indian Health Service, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Centers for Disease Control are in our fifth year of implementing a 5-year plan to reduce human health risks from uranium-contaminated materials in homes, drinking water sources, and abandoned mine and mill sites on the Navajo Reservation. We have focused on addressing the most urgent risks to residents while gaining a better understanding of the scope of the problem.

We are overseeing cleanup work by responsible parties at 3 high-priority mines and the Tuba City Open Dump and are utilizing Superfund program appropriations and Tronox bankruptcy funds to conduct assessments of four additional priority mine sites, including the uranium ore transfer station near Cameron, Arizona (known as Section 9 Lease).

We are currently evaluating the eligibility of Section 9 Lease for inclusion on the Superfund National Priorities List and anticipate completing our CERCLA Preliminary Assessment in the summer of 2012. We are also determining what short-term response actions are necessary at this site. In addition, we are evaluating information regarding potentially responsible parties who may be pursued to finance cleanup actions for this and other sites on the Navajo Nation.

Since 2007, the EPA in coordination with the Navajo Nation EPA has performed or overseen \$61.8 million in work to address uranium contamination, including more than \$15 million from responsible parties. EPA and our Navajo Nation counterparts have:

- screened 683 homes and other structures for potential contamination;

- completed the demolition of 34 structures (including homes and ceremonial hogans); rebuilt 14 homes;
- completed screening-level field assessments of 520 mines;
- completed cleanup of highest priority Skyline Mine;
- started cleanup on three of the highest priority mines identified in consultation with the Navajo Nation;
- issued enforcement actions against four responsible parties and are overseeing their investigations and cleanups; and
- tested 240 drinking water wells for contamination, shut down or posted sources exceeding drinking water standards, piloted new water hauling service to remote areas and partnered with Indian Health Service and HUD to invest \$24.5 million in new water lines.

In FY 2012, we contracted with the Navajo Department of Housing to rebuild 12 contaminated homes in the Baca/Haystack area of the reservation in New Mexico. Later this year, we will scan an additional 40 structures in the Cove, Arizona area, and will start demolition of homes found to be contaminated.

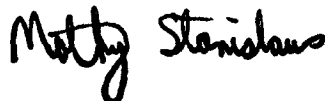
The EPA coordinates closely with Navajo Nation EPA, the Indian Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and local organizations to provide information to communities threatened by abandoned uranium mines. EPA has conducted outreach to all Navajo Chapters affected by uranium contaminated water supplies and have posted signs at wells and local Chapter Houses.

Your letter also inquires as to the status of the EPA response actions at the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine in New Mexico. EPA Region 6 has consulted with the Pueblo of Laguna regarding ongoing concerns about the status of reclamation for this mine. The EPA has conducted several investigations since 2010 and proposed the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine for inclusion on the National Priorities List on March 15, 2012. The listing will allow the EPA to utilize federal Superfund program funds to address the risks to human health and the environment at the mine.

The EPA and our federal counterparts have committed to developing a second 5-year plan for the Navajo Nation, covering 2013-2017. This plan will prioritize response actions for the remaining highest risk mines, structures, and water supplies.

Again, thank you for your interest in federal efforts to address the health and environmental impacts of abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Reservation. If you have further questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Raquel Snyder in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-9586.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mathy Stanislaus". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Mathy Stanislaus
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 30 2012

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Honorable Jared Polis
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0602

Dear Congressman Polis:

Thank you for your letter of April 19, 2012 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Jackson and Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Chu requesting information on our agencies' work to address the health and environmental impacts of abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Reservation. The EPA and our federal counterparts remain committed to upholding our responsibilities to the Navajo Nation to address uranium mines that threaten human health and the environment.

As your letter points out, thousands of abandoned uranium mines exist in the western United States, and the cost of cleaning up these sites far exceeds funds that federal, state and tribal governments have available for reclamation and remediation. We have a focused effort on the Navajo reservation and other sites where risks to human health are the greatest.

The EPA, DOE, Indian Health Service, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Centers for Disease Control are in our fifth year of implementing a 5-year plan to reduce human health risks from uranium-contaminated materials in homes, drinking water sources, and abandoned mine and mill sites on the Navajo Reservation. We have focused on addressing the most urgent risks to residents while gaining a better understanding of the scope of the problem.

We are overseeing cleanup work by responsible parties at 3 high-priority mines and the Tuba City Open Dump and are utilizing Superfund program appropriations and Tronox bankruptcy funds to conduct assessments of four additional priority mine sites, including the uranium ore transfer station near Cameron, Arizona (known as Section 9 Lease).

We are currently evaluating the eligibility of Section 9 Lease for inclusion on the Superfund National Priorities List and anticipate completing our CERCLA Preliminary Assessment in the summer of 2012. We are also determining what short-term response actions are necessary at this site. In addition, we are evaluating information regarding potentially responsible parties who may be pursued to finance cleanup actions for this and other sites on the Navajo Nation.

Since 2007, the EPA in coordination with the Navajo Nation EPA has performed or overseen \$61.8 million in work to address uranium contamination, including more than \$15 million from responsible parties. EPA and our Navajo Nation counterparts have:

- screened 683 homes and other structures for potential contamination;

- completed the demolition of 34 structures (including homes and ceremonial hogans); rebuilt 14 homes;
- completed screening-level field assessments of 520 mines;
- completed cleanup of highest priority Skyline Mine;
- started cleanup on three of the highest priority mines identified in consultation with the Navajo Nation;
- issued enforcement actions against four responsible parties and are overseeing their investigations and cleanups; and
- tested 240 drinking water wells for contamination, shut down or posted sources exceeding drinking water standards, piloted new water hauling service to remote areas and partnered with Indian Health Service and HUD to invest \$24.5 million in new water lines.

In FY 2012, we contracted with the Navajo Department of Housing to rebuild 12 contaminated homes in the Baca/Haystack area of the reservation in New Mexico. Later this year, we will scan an additional 40 structures in the Cove, Arizona area, and will start demolition of homes found to be contaminated.

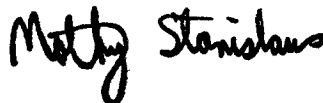
The EPA coordinates closely with Navajo Nation EPA, the Indian Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and local organizations to provide information to communities threatened by abandoned uranium mines. EPA has conducted outreach to all Navajo Chapters affected by uranium contaminated water supplies and have posted signs at wells and local Chapter Houses.

Your letter also inquires as to the status of the EPA response actions at the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine in New Mexico. EPA Region 6 has consulted with the Pueblo of Laguna regarding ongoing concerns about the status of reclamation for this mine. The EPA has conducted several investigations since 2010 and proposed the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine for inclusion on the National Priorities List on March 15, 2012. The listing will allow the EPA to utilize federal Superfund program funds to address the risks to human health and the environment at the mine.

The EPA and our federal counterparts have committed to developing a second 5-year plan for the Navajo Nation, covering 2013-2017. This plan will prioritize response actions for the remaining highest risk mines, structures, and water supplies.

Again, thank you for your interest in federal efforts to address the health and environmental impacts of abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Reservation. If you have further questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Raquel Snyder in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-9586.

Sincerely,



Mathy Stanislaus
Assistant Administrator